

**AGENDA**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, November 9th, 2023**  
**International Paper**  
**785 N 42nd St, Springfield, OR 97478**  
**5:15 – 7:30 p.m.**

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|---|--------------------|
| <b>1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda</b>  | <b>5:15 – 5:20</b> |
| Facilitator Jared Weybright   |                    |
| <i>Action Requested</i> – Approve November Meeting Agenda.  |                    |
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| <b>2. Approval of October 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes</b>   | <b>5:20 – 5:25</b> |
| Attachment: October Meeting Minutes   |                    |
| <i>Action Requested</i> – October meeting minutes.  |                    |
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| <b>3. Presentation: Finn Rock Reach Restoration Phase II Completion Report</b>  | <b>5:25 – 6:10</b> |
| John Trimble, Restoration Projects Manager with the McKenzie River Trust, will present on the completion of Phase 2 efforts to restore floodplain conditions at the MRT-owned property. |                    |
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| <b>4. Break</b>   | <b>6:10 – 6:20</b> |
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| <b>5. Partner Announcements and Public Comment</b>  | <b>6:20 – 7:00</b> |
| <i>Information Only</i>   |                    |
| <br>  |                    |
| <b>6. Director’s Report</b>   | <b>7:00 – 7:10</b> |
| Report and presentation of proposed Charter Revisions   |                    |
| <i>Information only</i>   |                    |

**Next Meeting**

- December 14th, 2023.
- Time: 5:15 – 7:00
- International Paper
- Topic: TBD

**Contact:** Jared Weybright, 458-201-8150, [jared@mckenziawc.org](mailto:jared@mckenziawc.org) , [www.mckenziawc.org](http://www.mckenziawc.org)

**MINUTES**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023**  
**International Paper**

**Present:**

Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), ,  
Brian Brazil (International Paper),  
Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides),  
Darren Cross (USFS)  
Nate Day (McKenzie Schools)  
Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms),  
Susan Fricke (EWEB)  
Chad Helms (holding proxy for Wade Stampe) (USACE)  
David Kretzing (Resident Partner),  
Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD),  
Emily Semple (City of Eugene)  
Nancy Toth (EWEB),  
Kelly Wood (Wildish),  
Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)  
Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

**Staff:** Jared Weybright

**Guests:** None

**1. Welcome and mingle over dinner**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3. Clarified that June meeting minutes were approved over email.

**3. Partner Updates**

Ralp Perkins stated that the UWSWCD is proud to be supporting Salmon Watch as part of their overall support for youth environmental education. This has traditionally been a difficult program to fund and the tax-base is providing a reliable source of support for this program.

John Barofsky shared a initiative that had come to his attention to place a Watershed Bill of Rights on a future ballot. He asked if anyone had heard of this effort and shared a hardcopy of the document.

Susan Fricke shared that EWEB, MRT, USFS and MWC had completed a number of tours to Finn Rock Reach and Quartz Creek over the past couple months. She was happy to report that surveys have counted 50-60 Chinook redds at the Finn Rock Reach project site. Pre-project, redd counts ranged in the single digit to 20 range, so this some welcome initial evidence that the fish support the project. The project has received some nice media attention over the past couple weeks as well.

Darren Cross provided updates on the Lookout Creek and Horse Creek fires. Suppression efforts are close to finalized and BAER surveys are underway, as well as culvert, hazard trees and other disaster assessment. Closures will end in October. Approximately a quarter of the Willamette National Forest has burned since 2018/2019 to put recent wildfires into perspective. The Lookout Creek fire burned about 70% of the HJ Andrews Forest. He also noted that paving on Aufderheide Drive from Terwilliger Hot Springs to Box Springs is nearing completion.

Chad Helms stated that trap and haul efforts at Cougar Dam are complete for the year. About 90 spring Chinook were moved above Cougar Dam in 2023. The USACE will hold off on filling reservoirs till December. He also noted that the deep draw down at Green Peter Reservoir led to a large fish kill of kokanee that was widely reported by local media.

Jeff Ziller reported on the success of the sorting facility at Leaburg Dam in 2023. ODFW had very good success sorting and removing hatchery spring Chinook salmon. The percentage of hatchery fish documented on spawning grounds above Leaburg Dam was 1.4%, well below the 15% target identified by ODFW's Native Fish Conservation Policy. The sorting effort also helped provide McKenzie Hatchery with brood stock, though they are still under collection targets for 2023. The wild run of Chinook for the McKenzie is estimated at 1,900 fish for 2023. Jeff also noted that there have been increased reports of anglers catching bull trout throughout the river. This is likely the product of several factors including several good reproduction years and high-quality habitat.

Nancy Toth said that the EWEB-led emergency spill response drill went very well. The drill attracted a wide range of partners to practice emergency response in the pouring rain. There were also utility representatives from Medford and Salem in attendance who may take the concept back to their partners. She also thanked partners like McKenzie Fire for their ongoing participation and support.

Arlene Dietz stated that Rice Farms is busy harvesting filberts.

Nate Day reported that the school year is off to a good start and that groups of students have been to Finn Rock Reach several times and were also able to work with McKenzie Hatchery to help spawn returning Chinook.

Dana Burwell said that the McKenzie Guides are wrapping up the free life jacket program for the year. They even picked up a couple of extras at the Leaburg kiosk. He also thanked EWEB and specifically David Donahue, Nancy, and Susan for all their work on the emergency spill drill.

Jared Weybright took a moment to provide a brief staff report. The new replacement bridge over Quartz Creek is progressing on schedule. A temporary bridge is in place and contractors hope to be done in mid-November. This project is funded by NOAA and done in partnership with EWEB, MRT and USFS. The MWC is also working with the same group of partners and the BLM to source large wood for future floodplain restoration work on Quartz Creek. Over 2,000 pieces of large wood have been moved to a staging area on Quartz Creek by contractors in 2023. Wood is currently being sourced from BLM, USFS and PWP-enrolled properties. The MWC is also working closely with the BLM to add large wood to Marten and Bear Creeks. An initial stage was completed in August and September that felled hundreds

of burned stream adjacent trees into the creeks. The MWC is working with USFS, EWEB, and MRT to develop several monitoring projects focused on the South Fork McKenzie River, Quartz Creek and Finn Rock Reach. The South Fork project is funded and partners are still waiting on funding decisions for the other two sites. The USFS, MWC and other partners have begun planning for the third phase of restoration on the South Fork and are also starting to develop a funding proposal to NOAA. The PWP is wrapping up fall maintenance projects and is planning for approximately 100 acres of planting in early 2024.

#### **4. MWC Charter Revision Committee Report**

Jared provided a presentation of the Charter Revision Committee work and suggested revisions (see attached PDF of slide deck).

Council partners provided the following feedback and requested edits.

1. Add language within the Organizational Structure section specifying that at least one member of the Steering Committee shall be a member of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance Board of Directors.
2. Revised the Partner list in Council Partner section to accurately reflect all current member organizations.
3. Submit the entire document for legal review alongside the MWA By-laws.

Dave Kretzig call for consensus to approve the proposed revisions to the Council Charter pending the legal review and the request revisions outlined above. All partners present, including Chad Helms hold Wade Stampe's proxy, indicated consensus level 3.

#### **5. MWC Budget Overview**

Jared provided a presentation of the Charter Revision Committee work and suggested revisions.

Meeting adjourned, 7:30 pm